

**22 April 2009**

## **EAST MALLING RESEARCH AND STC RESEARCH FOUNDATION to work in partnership**

East Malling Research (EMR) and STC Research Foundation (STCRF) have signed an agreement to provide integrated applied science resources to the horticulture industry. The agreement was announced today, at a meeting of partners at STC.

The collaboration links these two industry-focussed organisations and their resources both, to deliver new opportunities and solutions to horticultural problems to growers, but also to give funders confidence to invest in a stable expertise resource.

EMR and STCRF are owned and governed by Boards of Trustees drawn from the horticultural industries and whose aims are solely based around research and knowledge transfer. The collaboration, agreed by these like-minded Boards, will enable their staff to share and build a larger expertise base. This will give future stability to the new grouping and enable new staff expertise to be more confidently recruited.

The collaboration addresses some of the challenges laid down by the National Horticultural Forum report prepared by Jamieson & Associates.

“Your letter to us informing of your agreement was met with considerable approval by the Horticultural Development Company (HDC) Board. We are looking forward to visiting East Malling in June for you to present areas where you see the new joined up structures delivering added benefits to our levy payers funding” said Neil Bragg, Chairman of HDC.

Sarah Pettitt, Chair of the NFU Horticultural Board welcomed the development. “The industry needs a focus like this to persuade Government to commit funding to help us cope with damaging legislation which is based on dogma rather than science such as the EU pesticide proposals - 91/414. We will be encouraging our members to fully support this initiative which takes control of our innovation facilities back under the ownership of growers”.

David Gwyther said “The compact between STC and EMR is extremely good news for Ornamental horticulture. It gives real hope that a R&D base for UK growers can now be sustained, despite the substantial cutbacks in Government funding of research and the devastating effects these are having on providers. Maintaining this R&D base is essential if our industry is to survive. This requires high quality technical innovation in order to both compete globally and to deal with new legislation. “

Graham Ward and Oliver Doubleday, respectively the Chairmen of STCRF and EMR, were delighted that this ground breaking agreement had been

achieved to bring together specialist organisations to create a total horticultural focus and resource for our scientists. "We believe it offers a new stable partnership, to bring together the various parts of research funding from pure research to growers, for long term future delivery of innovation to the industry ".

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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**Notes for Editors:**

1. **East Malling Research** (EMR) is an independent provider of research and consultancy serving the food chain and other sectors of the land-based industry. EMR builds on 90 years experience of successfully delivering cutting-edge research and development. [www.eastmallingeresearch.com](http://www.eastmallingeresearch.com)
2. **STC Research Foundation** is an industry owned and controlled technology transfer facility in Yorkshire specialising in protected and field salads and vegetables .... [www.stc-nyorks.co.uk](http://www.stc-nyorks.co.uk)
3. **Horticultural Development Company** is a levy funded body that serves the commercial horticultural industry in England, Scotland and Wales. [www.hdc.org.uk](http://www.hdc.org.uk)
4. **Colin Gutteridge and Martin McPherson** **shake hands on the deal**

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